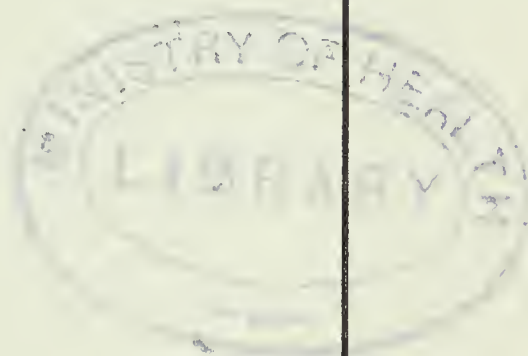
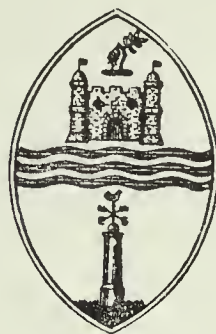


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NIDDERDALE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the year 1955

by

D. D. PAYNE, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health



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THE HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1955

Chairman : Colonel S. Rhodes, C.B., D.S.O.

Vice-Chairman : Hardcastle, J. A.

Councillors:

Ambler, Major E.	Hildreth, F.
Ashton, F. H.	Meysey-Thompson, Col., O.V.C.
Bellerby, S.	Nelson, J.
Bellerby, W.	Orton, J.
Booth, H. E.	Powell, Baden
Brunskill, Brig. G. S., M.C., C.B.E.	Parker, S. E.
Cariss, J. W. D.	Proctor, H.
Cooper, J., J.P.	Slater, E.
Cundall, A.	Stourton, The Hon. C. E.
Dent, Mrs. F. G.	Thompson, Whately, Major, J.P.
Eddie, H.	Thompson, J. O.
Fawcitt, N.	Yewdall, C. D.
Gregson, A. T.	Yeoman, G. R.

NIDDERDALE RURAL DISTRICT

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health :

D. D. PAYNE, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

P. S. R. BURRELL, M.B., C.L.B., D.P.H. (Resigned 3-12-55.)

Engineer, Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector:

W. H. DINGSDALE, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

G. TEALE, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

R. HULLAH,

Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Clerical Staff : Engineer, Surveyor and Health Department.

Mr. B. FOSTER.

Miss D. I. ANDERTON.

Miss M. KIRK.

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Nidderdale Rural District Council**

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I submit for your information and consideration my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the district for 1955.

The only infectious disease that was prevalent during the year was measles, which occurred mainly during the months of February and March. The great majority of cases were mild in character. There was one very severe case of poliomyelitis in an adult which terminated fatally, and another mild case which made a complete recovery. It is pleasing to record that no instance of food poisoning came to light during the year.

Vaccination against tuberculosis was given at the schools for the first time to boys and girls aged 13, where the parents gave their consent. It is anticipated this measure will decrease the occurrence of tuberculosis in adolescence and early adult life.

There has been a further expansion of the home help service during the year. Hours worked by the home helps rose from 7,625 in 1954 to 10,956 in 1955. The bulk of this time is spent in giving assistance in the homes of the aged and infirm.

As people age and become infirm, unless they have relatives or devoted friends living near at hand, or have a large private income, there comes a time when they will either have to enter the welfare accommodation provided under Part III of the National Health Service Act, or be admitted to hospital wards for the chronic sick. This may mean separating couples who have lived together all their married lives and placing them in an entirely new environment, to which at their advanced age, they find it next to impossible to adapt themselves.

It is the endeavour of the public health nursing team, comprising the health visitor, the home nurse and the home help, to assist these elderly people to remain in their own homes for as long as is reasonably possible.

Apart from the most important fact that the aged and infirm are much happier in their own home surroundings, it is economically much less expensive to the public, than providing them with costly places in hospital wards. The difficulty is that the domicillary nursing services are paid for by the rates and an extension of these services is bound to throw an increased cost on to the rates, whereas the hospital services are paid for by the Government, the monies being obtained from the less obvious pocket of the general taxpayer.

I desire to acknowledge the support and assistance I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Council and to record my appreciation of the work of Mr. Dingsdale and his staff.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

D. D. PAYNE,

Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1956.

General Statistics, 1955

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	75,009
Population (mid-summer, 1955, estimated by the Registrar-General)	...	...	...	...	...	15,610
Number of inhabited houses, March, 1955	...	...	...	...	...	3,902
Rateable Value, March, 1955	...	...	...	...	...	£76,361
Product of Penny Rate, March, 1955	...	...	...	...	...	£305

Births.

Live Births:	Males		Females		
Legitimate	88	} 91	Legitimate	87	} 91
Illegitimate	3		Illegitimate	4	
					182

Crude Birth Rate (Live births per 1,000 of the estimated population)	11.7
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

*Adjusted Birth Rate	14.5
----------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Still Births:	Males		Females		
Legitimate	4	} 4	Legitimate,	-	} -
Illegitimate	-		Illegitimate,	-	
					4

Still Births—Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births	21.5
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Deaths.

Number of Deaths—Males 97, Females 68	165
---------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Crude Death Rate	10.6
------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

*Adjusted Death Rate	10.5
----------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0.0
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:

	Males		Females		
Legitimate	-	} 1	Legitimate	-	} -
Illegitimate	1		Illegitimate	-	
					1

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births	5.5
-----------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

					Rate (per 1,000 population)
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	...	...	...	0.1
Deaths from other Tuberculous Diseases		...	...	...	0.0
Deaths from Infective and Parasitic Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis)	4	...	...	...	0.3
Deaths from Vascular lesions of the nervous system,	22	...	...	...	1.4
Deaths from Heart and Circulatory Diseases,	82	...	...	...	5.3
Deaths from Cancer,	17	...	...	...	1.1
Deaths from Respiratory Diseases,	13	...	...	...	0.8

*Adjusted by Area Comparability factors supplied by the Registrar-General. This adjustment makes allowance for the changing age structure of the population. (Births 1.24 and Deaths 0.99).

Causes of Death in Nidderdale Rural District, 1955.

Causes of Death						1955	
						Male	Female
All Causes						97	68
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	1	—
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	—	1
4	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	—	—
7	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	1	—
8	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	2	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	3	—
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	2	1
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	3
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	—
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	4	3
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	1	—
16	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	12	10
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	16	8
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	4	1
20	Other heart diseases	...	...	...	...	26	24
21	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	1	2
22	Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	—
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	3	3
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	3	3
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	1	—
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	—
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	—	—
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	—	1
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	4	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	1	—
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	4	4
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	3	—
34	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	2	2
35	Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	1
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	—	—
Total						165	

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

1. **Population.**

The population estimated by the Registrar General at the end of June, 1955, was 15,610, an increase of 90 as compared with the estimated population of the previous year.

2. **Social Conditions.**

The chief industry of the district is agriculture and the communal life in every village is based upon farming.

3. **Births.**

(a) **Live Births.**

The number of live births registered in Nidderdale during the year was 51, 24 males and 27 females, but the corrected figure supplied by the Registrar General, which takes into account inward and outward transfers, was 165, 97 males and 68 females. This was a decrease of 6 on the figure for 1954.

The birth rate, when adjusted by the area comparability factor as given by the Registrar General, was 14.5 per thousand of the population which was 0.5 less than the rate for England and Wales (15.0).

There were 7 illegitimate births, 3 males and 4 females, representing 3.8 percent of the live births.

(b) **Still Births.**

After adjustment for inward and outward transfers, there were 4 still births, all males, during the year. This gave a rate of 21.5 per thousand live and still births, compared with 23.1 the rate for England and Wales.

4. **Deaths.**

The number of deaths registered during the year was 112, 60 males and 52 females, but the number of deaths of residents corrected for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar General was 165, 97 males and 68 females. The crude death rate was 10.6 per thousand, but when adjusted in accordance with the comparability factor supplied by the Registrar General, the rate was reduced to 10.5 per thousand, as compared with 11.3 for England and Wales.

The causes of death are shown in the table on page 8.

5. **Infant Mortality.**

During the year 1 resident infant, a male, died before reaching his first birthday. The infant mortality rate was 5.5 per thousand live births compared with the rate of 24.9 for England and Wales.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. **Public Health Officers of the Authority.**

The names and qualifications of these are set out on page 4.

2. **Health Services.**

(a) **Laboratory Facilities.**

The chemical analysis of water is carried out by Messrs Richardson and Jaffé, Bradford. The assessment of plumbosolvency is undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Wakefield.

The examination of clinical material, throat swabs, etc., is undertaken at the Public Health Laboratory at the Harrogate General Hospital. Water, milk and other foodstuffs are also bacteriologically examined at this laboratory.

Nidderdale is fortunate in having a public health laboratory situated so close at hand. Dr. D. J. H. Payne is the bacteriologist in charge of this laboratory, and there is the closest co-operation between the laboratory and the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector.

The services of the laboratory are most valuable when there is an outbreak of infection or suspected cases of food poisoning. The control of infectious disease is a matter of team work between the Public Health Department, the Medical Practitioner and the Public Health Laboratory Service.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.**

Ambulance facilities are provided by the West Riding County Council from an area station situated at the Parade Garage, Harrogate, with sub-stations covering the outer areas at Ripon and Pateley Bridge. The service is provided free under the National Health Service Act and covers removal of infectious cases to hospital.

The 5 ambulances are all equipped with short wave wireless transmission and reception apparatus, enabling information to be passed to and from a central control. By this means, ambulances can be diverted to accidents and other emergencies and can save life and time. The Harrogate Station has its own transmitter, together with a monitor set which gives full information from the main control at Birkenshaw, Nr. Bradford.

3. **Divisional Health Services.**

The Divisional Health Services covering the areas of Harrogate, Knaresborough and Nidderdale, are administered from the Divisional Health Office, Municipal Offices, Harrogate.

These services include Maternity and Child Welfare, School Health and Dental, Care and After-Care, Midwifery, Home Nursing, Home Help and Mental Health Services.

Brief details of some of these services are given as follows:—

(a) **Health Visiting and School Nursing.**

Health visiting and school nursing have been carried out in the district by a whole-time health visitor living at Hessay and by a part-time school nurse who is resident in Harrogate. Three other health visitors also resident in Harrogate undertake part-time duties in the Nidderdale Rural District.

(b) **School Health Services.**

These services are administered by the West Riding County Council through the Divisional School Medical Officer. School children are medically examined periodically at schools at routine medical inspections, and any cases found to require treatment are referred, where necessary, to their private practitioner, to the Minor Ailments Clinics which are held in Harrogate and Knaresborough, or to a Specialist Clinic in Knaresborough or Harrogate.

The Specialist Clinics include Cardiac, Ophthalmic, Orthoptic, Orthopaedic, Ear, Nose and Throat Clinics, and a Clinic for children with defective speech. There is also in Harrogate, a General School Clinic for cases requiring a more complete medical examination than is possible at the schools.

The Orthoptic Clinic had to be suspended at the end of July, 1955, owing to the resignation of Miss Davey, the Orthoptist, who left to take up work in another area. There were considerable difficulties in obtaining a replacement and this clinic could not be resumed until February, 1956. The Clinic is concerned with children who are suffering from squint, and eye exercises are given to help the children overcome this condition.

502 children in attendance at schools in the Nidderdale Rural District were given routine medical examinations during the year. In addition 8 special inspections and 117 re-inspections were also carried out.

Dental inspection of children is undertaken at the schools and treatment is provided at the Dental Clinic, Chain Lane, Knaresborough, for those children whose schools are within easy distance of Knaresborough. For the more distant schools in the Division, treatment is provided by means of a Mobile Dental Treatment Unit.

(c) **Special Examination of Handicapped Children.**

Special examinations are made where it is found that a child is educationally retarded, and in certain cases special education is advised. At the end of the year there were 7 children resident

in the Nidderdale Rural District who were educationally sub-normal, of whom 3 were attending special residential schools for this purpose.

Children who are ineducable are reported to the Mental Deficiency Committee of the West Riding County Council. 2 children were under supervision and were visited from time to time by the Mental Health Social Worker.

Other children who are physically handicapped are recommended for admission to special schools when this is considered desirable. 2 blind children and 2 deaf children were attending residential special schools, and 1 partially sighted child was attending a special day school in York.

(d) Children Leaving School.

There is close liaison with the Youth Employment Officer, and medical reports are made from time to time to the Youth Employment Officer on children who are leaving school and who are, in some way, handicapped. Information is given as to any occupation which would not be suitable for a particular child on medical grounds. Where the disability is severe, and the parents give consent in writing, more detailed medical reports are given in order that the case may be registered under the Disabled Persons Act. This Act gives certain advantages to disabled persons, these include priority in gaining suitable employment.

(e) Maternity Services.

185 births, including 4 still-births, were notified in respect of Nidderdale residents during the year. Of these, 51 confinements took place at home attended by domiciliary midwives. 58 births took place in the maternity block of the Harrogate General Hospital, 22 in the Carlton Lodge Maternity Home, Harrogate, 27 in Ripon Maternity Home, 13 in York Maternity Home, and 14 in other institutions.

(f) Home Nursing.

Eight home nurses have undertaken work in the area during the year, and their services are much appreciated by the community. The majority of the work of the Home Nursing Service is amongst the elderly, particularly those who have some crippling defect and who are bed-ridden owing to chronic illness.

(g) Home Help Service.

At the end of the year 15 part-time home helps were employed in Nidderdale. The total number of hours worked during the year was 10,956 as compared with 7,625 in 1954.

Assistance was given to 61 cases, of these, 11 were due to illness in the home, excluding illness of aged persons, and 33 related to illness or infirmity of the aged. Home helps were supplied to 2 cases of tuberculosis, 1 expectant mother, and 11 maternity cases, thus enabling the mothers to have their babies at home. 3 home helps undertook the care of children while their mothers were ill.

(h) **Child Welfare Centres.**

These centres are held at Boroughbridge, Poppleton and Whixley.

In addition, an advice centre is held in a building provided by the Army authorities for use of families of officers and men at the Hildebrand Barracks, Harrogate. On two afternoons each month, the mothers bring their babies for advice from the health visitor and for weighing. Although there is no doctor in attendance, cases considered to require medical advice are referred to their general practitioners or to the main clinic at 2, Dragon Parade, Harrogate. Infant foods are available at this centre.

259 children attended at these centres during the year, making a total number of attendances of 1,902. Of these, 82 of the children attended for the first time.

(i) **Mobile Clinic.**

The Mobile Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic continued to serve this area during the year, visiting the villages of Burton Leonard, Hampsthwaite, Killinghall and Follifoot.

Mothers with children under five form the majority of users of the clinic, 101 such children attended, making in all 371 attendances. Expectant mothers and school children are also seen on occasion. Immunisation against diphtheria and vaccination are carried out and, in the case of the younger children, immunisation against whooping cough.

(j) **Mental Health Service.**

The Mental Health Social Worker visits 13 mental defectives who are under Statutory Supervision, and 2 older defectives under Voluntary Supervision. 4 of the older defectives were in full time employment at the end of the year, and 4 were usefully occupied at home.

The Home Teacher visits 1 child and 3 older defectives. She teaches raffia work, knitting, rug making, and embroidery, and in the case of the child gives sense training.

THE PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND THEIR CONTROL

The number of cases notified are set out in a table on page 16.

1. **Scarlet Fever.**

14 cases of scarlet fever were notified as compared with 28 cases in 1954. 12 cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital and 2 were isolated at home.

2. **Measles.**

206 cases of measles were notified during the year as compared with 116 during 1954. Of these, 3 were admitted to hospital. The majority of the cases occurred in children aged five or six years who had recently commenced their school life. The villages of Boroughbridge and Rufforth were particularly affected.

3. **Whooping Cough.**

39 cases of whooping cough were notified during the year as compared with 3 cases during the previous year.

4. **Pneumonia.**

8 cases of pneumonia were notified during the year as compared with 7 cases during 1954. 1 of the cases proved fatal.

5. **Poliomyelitis.**

2 cases of poliomyelitis were notified during the year. 1 case which was a very severe one, terminated fatally. It occurred in an adult aged thirty who was taken ill in September. Two days later, some weakness of his arm developed and he was admitted to Seacroft Hospital by ambulance without delay. He was subsequently placed in an iron lung but, despite every care and attention, his condition became worse and he died the following week. The second case also occurred in an adult, aged twenty-one, and was admitted to Seacroft Hospital in June. In this case the patient made a complete recovery and was left with no residual weakness of limbs.

6. **Meningococcal Meningitis.**

A baby aged eight months was admitted to the Harrogate General Hospital in April, with meningococcal meningitis. This condition followed infection of the middle ear. The child was treated with penicillin and made a rapid recovery and returned home well, a fortnight after admission.

7. **Erysipelas.**

A case of mild erysipelas of the face was notified which followed a boil. The patient made a good recovery with treatment.

8. **Tuberculosis.**

2 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, 1 male and 1 female, and 2 new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, both females, were notified during this period. 4 patients were admitted to Sanatoria, 2 patients removed from the area, and 4 cases recovered. There were 2 deaths from tuberculosis during the year.

9. **Other Infectious Diseases.**

No case of smallpox, diphtheria, dysentery, food poisoning, nor puerperal pyrexia, was notified during 1955.

10. **Preventive Inoculations.**

(a) **Diphtheria Immunisation.**

The health visitors, during their visits to children under one year in particular, stress the need for diphtheria immunisation, and it is felt that personal persuasion of this character is the best form of propaganda.

149 immunisations were carried out during the year and in addition 229 reinforcing injections were given to children in whom the degree of immunity had been diminished by the length of time since their initial inoculation.

(b) **Whooping Cough Immunisation.**

The number of whooping cough immunisations carried out during 1955 was 99. In addition many pre-school children received the combined diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation through their private practitioners.

(c) **Smallpox Vaccination.**

During the year 114 vaccinations against smallpox and 20 re-vaccinations were carried out in the area.

(d) **Tuberculosis Vaccination.**

The parents of thirteen year old school-children attending the council schools, were given the opportunity of accepting vaccination with B.C.G. for their children. It is first necessary to find out which children need this vaccination and this is determined by a test, known as the Mantoux test, which is a skin test showing whether the child has already acquired a natural resistance to tuberculosis or whether vaccination is desirable.

In Nidderdale 39 children received this preliminary Mantoux test and from this test it was shown that it was desirable for 30 children to receive the B.C.G. vaccination, all of whom were vaccinated during the year.

Age Groups of Notified Cases of Infectious Diseases for the year 1955.

No. of Cases Notified Ages—Years	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia	Poliomyelitis	Meningococcal Meningitis	Erysipelas
Under 1	—	3	4	1	—	1	—
1—2	—	17	7	1	—	—	—
3—4	4	34	6	2	—	—	—
5—9	8	120	16	2	—	—	—
10—14	2	24	5	2	—	—	—
15—24	—	4	—	—	1	—	—
25 and over	—	4	1	—	1	—	1
Total notified	14	206	39	8	2	1	1
No of cases admitted to Hospital	12	3	—	—	2	1	—
Total No. of Deaths of Notified Cases	—	—	—	1	1	—	—

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (Section 47)

An elderly woman was removed to hospital on an order obtained under Section 47 as amended by the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951. This woman was seriously ill from heart failure and, in the opinion of her own doctor, urgently required removal to hospital. She died in the hospital three weeks after admission.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR FOR THE YEAR 1955.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District
Council of Nidderdale.*

I submit for your information and consideration, my annual report for the year ending 31st December, 1955.

The work of the department has progressed smoothly. Considerable progress was made in the survey of houses under the Housing Acts. The result of this survey showed that the number of sub-standard houses was comparatively low and will not involve extensive re-housing.

Meat inspection has settled down to a steady routine and there is a 100 per cent. inspection of carcasses and offal of all animals slaughtered in the district. Great care is taken to ensure that diseased meat is properly disposed of.

Applications for improvement grants have risen during the year and a substantial amount of work has been completed.

Practically the whole of the district is now supplied with piped water, but these benefits have brought to the fore the need for proper sewerage and sewage disposal facilities in the smaller villages which are not yet sewered. The problem of polluted dykes is becoming increasingly difficult to deal with.

Although the services provided by the Council are now comprehensive, the lack of satisfactory labour is a constant worry. There is much difficulty in obtaining any labour at times, which means that some work has to be temporarily neglected in order to keep the essential services going.

I should like to thank the Chairman and members of the Council and the Medical Officer of Health for their kind co-operation and progressive approach to the varied work of the department and to the staff, foremen and workmen for their loyalty and co-operation.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. DINGSDALE.

9th May, 1956.

GENERAL STATISTICS 1955

Parishes	Estimated Population 1951 census	No. of Dwellings	Water Supplies Population supplied by	
			Mains	Standpipes
Allerton-Mauleverer-with- Hopperton	160	42	82	
Arkendale	132	41	101	
Boroughbridge	1,858	555	1,798	
Brearton	141	42	70	
Burton Leonard	448	168	392	13
Cattal	140	38	112	
Coneythorpe and Clareton	40	14	28	
Copgrove	66	25	Private	
Dunsforth Lower	113	22	69	
Dunsforth Upper-with- Branton Green	140	41	139	
Farnham	107	38	99	
Felliscliffe	280	77	84	
Ferrensby	104	43	104	
Flaxby	55	13	45	
Follifoot	309	123	351	
Goldsborough	160	40	120	
Great Ouseburn	249	108	216	
Great Ribston-with Walshford	134	37	85	
Green Hammerton	529	185	496	16
Hampsthwaite	582	188	503	
Haverah Park	54	12	Private	
Hessay	117	31	105	
Hunsingore	125	40	116	
Killinghall	2,242	334	2,102	
Kirby Hall	31	11	19	
Kirk Hammerton	393	129	364	
Knapton	91	29	60	
Knaresborough Outer	92	22	Private	
Little Ouseburn	200	68	199	
Marton-with-Grafton	362	127	321	
Moor Monkton	192	56	174	
Nidd	147	42	Private	
Nun Monkton	251	81	212	
Pannal (Beckwithshaw)	264	87	223	
Plompton	114	29	101	
Poppleton Nether	446	146	428	
Poppleton Upper	768	290	702	
Ripley	101	63	Private	
Roecliffe	182	54	153	
Rufforth	658	98	396	
Scotton	418	127	404	
Scriven	204	40	204	
Stainley-with-Cayton	213	57	Private	8
Staveley	300	125	289	
Thornville	20	7	11	
Thorpe Underwoods	133	38	80	
Walkingham-Hill-with Occaney	28	7	Private	
Westwick	14	3	Private	
Whixley	737	175	636	
Widdington	19	4	5	
	14,831	4,190	12,210	37

The estimated population (mid 1955) is 15,610

2. WATER SUPPLY.

(a) Private Supplies.

Routine sampling of private water supplies revealed that 13 premises had unsatisfactory drinking water. A total of 84 samples were taken for analysis. Wherever possible owners of property with unsatisfactory drinking water supplies are encouraged to provide mains water supply and in many cases comprehensive schemes of "improvement grants" follow.

The private supply to the village of Ripley, which is derived from a land spring, is known to be liable to intermittent pollution and is chlorinated as a routine. 4 samples taken directly from the land spring showed 3 to be polluted. All 12 samples taken in the village after chlorination were quite satisfactory.

The following communities rely on private supplies from wells, springs or boreholes :—

* Copgrove	Felliscliffe
Haverah Park	Nidd
Ripley	South Stainley
Walkingham Hill	Westwick

* A scheme for supplying this community with piped water from Staveley village was still under consideration by the Ministry at the end of the year.

There is no risk of "plumbo solvency" from water supplies within this district.

(b) Public Supplies.

Within the Council's own statutory area of supply 30 villages are supplied by their own undertakings in detail. 12 villages are supplied by Harrogate Waterworks Department and a further 3 by York Waterworks Company. It is estimated that 86 per cent. of the population is now supplied with piped water.

Boroughbridge and District Water Supply now has a reticulation of 58 miles of main of varying classes and sizes. Water consumption over the past 10 years has increased by 87 per cent. and towards the end of the year the Council instructed their Consultant Engineer to report on the advisability of increasing storage capacity at the headworks, to meet the rising demand.

As a result of this report the Council accepted in principle the following suggestions.

1. Increasing the storage capacity of their 150,000 gallon reservoir at Marton by a further 100,000 gallons.
2. Provision of a balancing reservoir for the village of Staveley.
3. Experimental borehole and later a new 24-inch borehole and Pump House at Grafton.

Total estimated cost £14,950.

In view of the increasing commitments of their waterworks' foreman, the Council agreed to appoint an assistant waterworks' attendant in November. More attention can now be given to maintenance of mains and plant.

Provision of mechanical excavation plant could economically be applied to complete small mains extensions in the Council's own Statutory Area of Supply. Without mechanisation the difficulties encountered in carrying out schemes with direct labour makes it impossible to undertake even minor mains extensions and other works connected with the Waterworks.

262 inspections were made to water supply schemes, connections and works in progress by the Council's Officers and a further 494 by the Waterworks' Foreman.

Total number new consumers (including field troughs and farms) 65. (1954 33).

Rechargeable Works (Waterworks' Dept. Labour) £35.

Total Water Pumped :

Grafton	...	...	...	89,667,000 gallons.
Burton Leonard	...	...	...	6,500,000 gallons.

Towards the end of the year two mains extensions in the Whixley area were completed.

2/3rds. mile—3-inch Everite Asb.-Cement to Tancred Farms.

*2 miles—3-inch Everite Asb.-Cement to Mid Yorks. Institution and Dickinson Hill via Allerton.

*This extension will afford a supply to a further 7 W.R.C.C. Smallholdings and 1 privately owned farm.

The continual growth of the Boroughbridge and District Water Supply Scheme increases the administrative work involved year by year.

3. DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

(a) Sewers and Works (Satisfactory).

The following parishes are catered for with modern or adequate sewers and sewage disposal works.

Boroughbridge	Green Hammerton	Nether Poppleton
Aldborough	Kirk Hammerton	Ripley
Minskip	Little Ouseburn	Scotton
Farnham	Grafton	Scriven
Ferrensby	Nidd	Staveley
Follifoot	Nun Monkton	Walkingham Hill
Goldsborough	Upper Poppleton	Whixley
Great Ouseburn		

The volume of sewage to be treated at these works continues to increase as more properties are connected to the sewerage system. Consequently more time had to be spent by your sewage works attendants in maintaining works.

Large quantities of sludge are produced at the new Kirk Hammerton works which has to be handled during wet weather by the cesspit emptier to avoid nuisance. The maintenance of the Tutt Valley Works at Boroughbridge will shortly become a full time job for an attendant during summer months if a satisfactory effluent is to be maintained.

Automatic electric "no flote" control gear now fitted to the leading pumps at Poppleton Pumping Stations has proved a good insurance against pump failure due to choking of the old fashioned float and trip wire control with foreign objects.

Your staff prepared a scheme to extend a 6-inch branch sewer some 520 yards in Knapton Lane, Poppleton, which was carried out collectively by the owners of 6 isolated cottages, at the time the property was being modernised.

(b) **Sewers and Works (Unsatisfactory).**

The following parishes have, in varying degrees, either inadequate sewers or works and must be considered for improved schemes as soon as practicable.

Allerton	Upper & Lower	Killinghall
Arkendale	Dunsforth	Knapton
Brearton	Kettlesing	† Marton
Burton Leonard	Flaxby	Moor Monkton
Cattal	Walshford	Beckwithshaw
Coneythorpe	Hessay	Roecliffe & South
Copgrove	* Hunsingore	Stainley
	Hampsthwaite	Rufforth

* Towards the end of the year the Council had practically completed the installation of a small new works and filterbeds at Hunsingore. This work was undertaken by direct labour.

† A scheme has now been prepared and approved to extend the sewers in Marton village so as to discharge into Grafton works. This work is expected to commence early in the new year.

(c) **Trade Effluents.**

Application was made to the Council to discharge approximately 2,500,000 gallons per annum trade effluent into their sewers from a proposed industrial laundry at Boroughbridge. Representative samples were obtained of the varying effluents to be treated, and after consultation with the Yorkshire Ouse River Board two alternative schemes were suggested, i.e., full treatment at the Tutt Valley Works or partial treatment by the firm—with proportionate payment to the Council in each case.

For the majority of the year wash water will be taken from the nearby river Tutt, by agreement with the Yorkshire Ouse River Board.

A suitable trade effluent agreement was prepared and signed and work is expected to commence next year. The firm will pre-treat their own effluent down to agreed standards before discharging into the Council's sewers and a careful watch will have to be kept to see that the agreement is not contravened.

(d) Cesspit Emptyer.

The 800 gallon cesspit emptier purchased last year was used on 124 occasions to relieve choked septic tanks on privately owned premises, from which an income of £393 was derived.

Emergencies excepted, the vehicle is only used on 2 days each week. After private tanks have been emptied, it is then employed in the same area on a routine system of cleansing tanks, flushing sewers, etc., which are vested in the Council. 120 such visits were made during the year and it is reasonable to say that small village tanks, sewers, etc., are now better maintained than at any time since they were constructed.

(e) Labour.

Apart from routine work on sewers and works, attention was again concentrated on repairing and renovating many small sewage works. Keeping considerable lengths of open gutters and dykes free from sewage pollution is still a big drain on labour, and will continue to be, until such times as the smaller villages are equipped with modern works.

All sewage pumps and ejector stations are now fully maintained by your foreman and his staff; a scheme which was commenced last year. The value of this policy was evidenced early in the year when two major break-downs occurred at the Poppleton Pumping Stations due to the sudden stopping of the pumps by the presence of stones and solid objects in the sewage.

Although the wage rate now payable to your sewage works attendants is beginning to compare slowly with private enterprise labour rates, difficulty is continually experienced in filling vacancies due to the nature of the work involved.

(f) General.

The increase in total volume of sewage passing through some of the older sewers leads to more cases of silted and choked sewers having to be dealt with. 77 stoppages were relieved, in many cases necessitating digging down to the sewers. If mechanisation could be introduced (see "Water Supply"—para. (b)) the same tractor could be fitted with a winch and used to "plough" many of these old sewers, as well as being used on efficient tip maintenance (see "Cleansing").

(g) **Sanitary Accommodation and Privy Conversions.**

It is now estimated that 75.4 per cent. of the sanitary accommodation of the district is waterbourne; during the year 40 privies or pail closets were abolished, mostly as a result of "improvement grant" schemes and 37 premises were re-drained to new septic tanks.

State of Sanitary Accommodation

Privies	...	...	...	584
Pails	...	...	...	607
W.C's.	...	...	...	3,657
Total ...				<hr/> 4,848 <hr/>

(h) **Rivers and Streams.**

Constant informal action is maintained by your officers, in the course of their routine duties, to reduce pollution of ditches, streams and water courses. Improvements were carried out at the Council's own small sewage works to improve the standard of effluents discharged into water-courses and in spite of frequent changes in staff, attendants are constantly being trained in efficient sewage disposal technique.

Standardisation of septic tank and filterbed designs throughout the district has been aimed at by circulating all builders with plans designed by your Surveyor, of modified designs acceptable to the River's Board.

I desire to record my appreciation of the help and advice given to my Department by the Yorkshire Ouse River Board and its Officers throughout the year.

4. CLEANSING.

Collection of Refuse.

The district is divided into 4 collection areas and excepting a few isolated farms (which are visited by arrangement) a fortnightly collection was maintained. Since the fortnightly collection scheme was introduced immediately after the war an additional 578 premises have now to be visited. This, together with lost time at holiday periods, means that the fortnightly service is difficult to maintain at certain times of the year.

An increase in the number of vehicles employed will have to be considered very soon.

Collection Vehicles (10 cu. yd. Ford Side Loaders)	4
Total Fleet Mileage	33,750
Bins emptied	4,046
Pails emptied	607
Privies cleansed	584
Estimated tonnage of refuse handled ...	6,130
Estimated cost of collection and disposal per house per year	18s./9d.
Total cost of vehicle maintenance (excluding workmen's wages)	£490
Number of Workmen employed	8

Collecting Vehicles.

The oldest of the 4 side loaders is now 4 years old, but weekly washing and polishing and regular greasing and servicing keeps these vehicles in a very good state of repair and appearance, considering the exceptional conditions under which they are called upon to operate on the tips and scavenging the area. It is hoped to acquire a mobile greasing plant early next year so that drivers can undertake their own greasing and 1,000 mile servicing, with a complete service by Ford Agents only once every 5,000 miles.

Centralisation of vehicles and garages at the Lingerfield Depot should be aimed at in the not too distant future, when maintenance and supervision could be achieved more satisfactorily than under existing arrangements. Bulk issues of petrol, oil and stocks and stores items could also conveniently be supervised as well as proper maintenance and servicing of the vehicles.

Disposal.

The majority of refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at the recently acquired 16 acre disused quarry site at Lingerfield, the remainder at the old Green Hammerton brickworks yard. There were no tip fires during the year. The majority of tip covering material is obtained from a nearby mortar plant (screenings) and only during very wet weather is it necessary to haul small quantities of ash from the Harrogate Gas Works to keep the tip face dry. Tip covering would be greatly facilitated if some form of mechanisation, such as a tractor with bulldozer blade was available.

If a tractor was acquired it would have many uses:—

1. Motive power for a trench digger for water mains and sewers.
2. With winch attachment it could “plough” silted sewers.
3. General haulage of pipes, materials and fittings for schemes.
4. Ploughing and tidying old land treatment works and surrounds.
5. When not otherwise required—tip covering.

As manual labour permits, progress is made in tidying the Lingerfield quarry site and surrounds, and towards the year end my staff have been engaged in surveying the quarry in order that a comprehensive development plan can be prepared. The planting of trees to the quarry surrounds would tend to beautify the quarry as well as keep down weed and rubbish growth.

I again desire to record the appreciation of the Council to the late owners of the quarry for the very co-operative way in which they continue to assist whenever they can.

Salvage.

Materials recovered during the past 5 years are as follows:—

						£	s.	d.
1950	...	...	...	...	...	200	2	1
1951	...	...	...	...	...	801	6	6
1952	...	...	...	...	...	383	6	11
1953	...	...	...	...	...	354	15	2
1954	...	...	...	...	...	387	9	9
						<hr/>		
						2,127	0	5
						<hr/>		

Analysed figures of recovered materials for the year ending 31st December, 1955 is:—

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Paper	...31	5	2	267	3	9
Metals	17	16	1	118	3	0
Rags	5	13	2	177	14	9
Cullet	4	1	0	7	1	9
Lead	-	2	1	9	4	6
<hr/>				<hr/>		
58				18	7	9
				2		
				<hr/>		
				579	7	9
				<hr/>		

In June, one of the attendants was transferred to permanent tip attendant at Lingerfield quarry; this was necessary to ensure adequate coverage of the increasing volume of refuse brought to the quarry and also to increase the recovery of salvageable materials. 75 per cent. of this man's wages are now charged to salvage.

HOUSING.

1. A comprehensive housing survey of the district was carried out during the year and the result of the initial survey, which is tabulated below, shows that some 80 houses (1.9 per cent.) may be considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation.

Many of these houses could be renovated by the assistance of "improvement grants." It is only where particularly bad siting is involved or lack of co-operation or financial resources on the part of the owner, that demolition orders are envisaged.

A further 239 houses were found to have sanitary defects in varying degrees. Towards the end of the year a sub-committee was convened to inspect sub-standard properties before official representations are made for Demolition or Closing Orders.

STATISTICS.

Number of dwellings in the district	...	...	4,190
Number of back to back houses	...	...	Nil
Total dwellings inspected for housing defects (Public Health and Housing Act)	...	...	911
Number of inspections made	...	...	1,028
Dwelling houses needing further action:—			
(a) Number considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	*80
(b) Number of houses (excluding (a)) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	*239
* Initial survey figures.			
(c) Defective dwelling houses rendered fit in con sequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	...	...	28

2. New Houses Completed.

Financial restriction has tended to slow down new building by private enterprise. Apart from individual new houses, the main areas of development are Poppleton and Killinghall, which enjoy the amenities of the nearby towns of York and Harrogate. The position by the end of the year was:—

Completed by the Local Authority	...	...	16
Completed by Private Enterprise	...	...	86
Under construction (Private)	...	...	23
			<hr/> 125 <hr/>

3. Town and Country Planning and Building Control.

Routine work in handling deposited plans for bye-laws and planning approval has again occupied a large part of the time of your officers and clerical staff. Many applications are submitted informally and advice sought on alteration work particularly, before final plans are deposited.

Plans deposited for approval under Building Bye-laws	...	...	...	...	263
Applications for Planning Consideration	...				193
Applications under Control of Advertisement Regulations	...	...	...	...	10
					<hr/>
Total applications dealt with in 1955					466

The filing of approved plans is again becoming a source of concern, particularly when it is considered that a total of some 4,000 plans have to be filed but available for quick and easy reference. The accommodation for my department is now quite inadequate to meet present needs and much time is lost travelling between one office and another by virtue of the fact that there is no separate plans and drawing office.

Your technical staff (who share the Drawing Office) find difficulty in working and interviewing callers with so many interruptions by the clerical staff who must have access to the drawing office. The clerical staff are likewise overcrowded and suffer constant interruption from callers and telephone enquiries.

4. Housing Act, 1954 — Improvement Grants.

Earlier experience gained in the handling of applications from owners for “improvement grants” is now proving very useful in dealing with the steady flow of applications and enquiries. Your officers are constantly meeting owners to discuss schemes informally —many of which are not proceeded with right away, but nevertheless the number of approved schemes is encouraging and continues to increase.

In many instances elaborate schemes are modified and a simplified system of costing is now applied to every application, which in the majority of cases, works very well.

Total number of grants approved	...	45
Number of premises involved	...	51
Total loan to owners	... ..	£6,817
Total visits by officers	... ..	102

5. Local Land Charges — Requisition for Information.

During the year 302 requests for information in connection with Local Land Charges were passed through the Department.

6. Tents, Vans, Sheds and Caravans.

Inspection of individual and collectively licenced caravan sites is undertaken along with other routine work of the office. Generally speaking conditions existing on these sites are very good, but as is to be expected, there continues to be a steady increase in the number of applications received.

Number of licenced sites (for over 2 caravans)	5
Number of caravans on licenced sites	... 55
Number on other sites	... .. 29

7. Milk Supply.

Conditions existing at Dealers and Supplementary Dealers premises are quite satisfactory. Extensive routine milk sampling has not been possible this year due to the large amount of time spent by your officers on housing survey work.

Number of licences in force for:—

Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	Dealers 5	Supplementary 5
Pasteurised	Dealers 4	Supplementary 6
Sterilised	Dealers 1	Supplementary 2

8. Ice Cream.

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the area and all ice-cream sold by the 29 registered ice cream retailers is pre-packed.

9. Meat and other Foods.

In the 8 licenced slaughterhouses 100 per cent. inspection of all carcass meat and offal is insisted upon and the co-operation of the butchers is generally good. The siting of some of the smaller slaughterhouses is not satisfactory, but by constant endeavour conditions existing at all 8 premises are fairly good. Large scale alterations have been completed to the wholesale slaughterhouse at Hampsthwaite, which includes enlarged hanging room and refrigerator, improved beast lairage, staff rooms and offices.

Although morning and occasional evening overtime is a continuous feature of meat inspection routine, the provision of additional hanging space at Hampsthwaite Slaughterhouse has now virtually stopped Sunday work.

Carcasses inspected and passed fit for consumption:—

Beasts	...	...	...	1,231
Pigs	...	...	...	5,467
Sheep	...	...	...	2,534
Calves	...	...	...	271
				<hr/>
				9,503
				<hr/>

Carcass meat, organs and/or offal condemned:—

For tuberculosis	...	...	11,814
Other Diseases	...	...	5,601
			<hr/>
			17,415 lbs.
			<hr/>

Condemned meat, after staining, is removed from the slaughterhouse under supervision of the Council's staff and disposed of. Income from the sale of condemned meat is £120 per annum.

Pig weighing and grading is also undertaken at the Hamps-thwaite slaughterhouse for the Ministry of Food. The total number of pigs graded for this purpose during the year was 2,016 from which an income of £50 16s. 6d. was derived.

Inspection of food preparation premises is carried out along with other routine work. It is hoped to intensify this particular routine early next year. The total amount of other foodstuffs condemned from shops, grocery establishments, etc., was 465 lbs.

10. Factories Act, 1937 and 1948.

Towards the end of the year 3 factories were surveyed in conjunction with the County Fire Officer with a view to the issuing of Means of Escape Certificates. The number of Factories registered is 96 to which 24 visits were made to ensure the provisions of the above Acts were being complied with. 5 premises were found unsatisfactory as regards sanitary accommodation.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The policy of confining inspection work mainly to farms and agricultural properties was again pursued by the Rodent Officer. The number of inspections was increased over those carried out last year and totalled 981.

The number of premises found to be infested and requiring treatment was 113 and apart from 3 owners who elected to carry out their own baiting all the infestations were suitably treated by the Council.

Comparison with last year's figures again shows a steady decline in the percentage of infestations compared with total premises inspected, which is a pointer to the effectiveness of the campaign.

Regular attention is also given to premises owned by the Council such as tips and sewage works and during the year 7 infestations on these premises were discovered and suitably dealt with.

Other infestations are from time to time found and dealt with. Towards the end of the year a granary was found to be badly infested with a peculiar type of grain weevil. In co-operation with the farmer concerned the infestation was suitably treated and the grain ground and fed to stock.

Although the minimum charge per treatment was maintained at 35/- the actual cost to the Council taking into account the Ministry Grant was £134.

